



Town of Hove.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1893,

ON THE

HEALTH OF THE TOWN,

BY

ERNEST SEXTON MEDCALF,

Medical Officer of Health for Hove,

TOWN HALL, HOVE.



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TOWN OF HOVE.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year ending 31st December, 1893.

To the Chairman and Gentlemen of the Sanitary Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in placing before you the following report as to the health of the Town of Hove for the year ending 31st December, 1893:—

The Registrar returns the number of deaths as 350 (males, 166; females, 184), and 557 births (males, 272; females, 285), making an increase by births, 207.

During the year, 14 inquests have been held, and the causes of death are returned as follows:—

Accidents ...	...	...	...	4
Natural Causes ...	...	...	...	3
Found Drowned ...	...	...	...	2
Murdered ...	...	...	...	3
				—
				12
Suicides—				
Cut Throat ...	...	...	...	1
Poisoning and Gunshot ...	...	...	...	1
				—
Total ...	...	...	...	14
				—

There has been one uncertified death.

The Hove death-rate is estimated on a population of 27,858, arrived at by taking the census of the 6th April, 1891 (26,097), and the increase by births over deaths, with the addition of the inhabitants of the new houses built since that date.

The return as to new property during the last three years has been supplied me by the Town Surveyor, and is as follows:—

No. of Houses.				No. of Inhabitants.			
1891.	1892.	1893.	Total.	1891.	1892.	1893.	Total.
75 ...	142 ...	112 ...	329	264 ...	513 ...	518 ...	1,295

The death-rate for the past year was 12·5 per 1,000, this compares most favourably with the returns of London 21·3, and Provincial Towns 21·8.

In the following table the death-rate is compared at each quarter:—

	March, 1893.	June, 1893.	Sept., 1893.	Dec., 1893.
London ...	22·1	19·5	20·5	23·2
Provincial Towns {	22·0	19·8	22·8	22·6
Hove ...	12·3	12·1	15·6	12·4

Births and deaths in the Town of Hove during the past ten years:—

	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884
Births ...	557	484	493	453	502	501	552	511	531	529
Deaths ...	350	384	334	345	258	322	332	297	296	365
Excess of Births	207	100	159	108	244	179	220	214	235	164
Death-rate ...	12·5	14·4	12·6	12·7	9·5	11·9	14·1	12·9	12·5	16·2
Birth-rate ...	20·0	18·1	18·7	16·7	18·5	18·5	23·1	22·2	23·0	23·5
per 1,000 of the living.										

During the last quarter of the year Aldrington has been added to your District with a population of 2,500, estimated on the census of 1891, and by the addition of the inhabitants of the new houses.

The Death-rate of Aldrington is given separately in this report, and is 14·4 per 1,000 for the quarter ending 31st December, 1893.

I wish to call your attention to the great age people attain in Hove: of the 155 deaths of those over 60 years the ages were as follows:—

			1891.		1892.		1893.
Over 60 and under 70	...	52	...	53	...	56	
„ 70	„ 80	...	60	...	71	...	61
„ 80	„ 90	...	33	...	35	...	34
90 and upwards	...	1	...	4	...	4	

The Zymotic death-rate for the past year, 0·9 per 1000, is extremely satisfactory, and compares most favorably with that of London and Provincial Towns, as shewn in the following table:—

		March, 1893.	June, 1893.	Sept., 1893.	Dec., 1893.
London	...	2·02	2·82	4·5	2·96
Provincial	}	2·00	2·77	6·1	2·55
Towns					
Hove	...	1·2	1·0	1·0	0·4

The following is the Zymotic death-rate of Hove for the past ten years:—

1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884
0·9	0·8	0·5	0·4	1·3	1·2	1·2	1·1	0·9	3·4
per 1,000.									

I would point out that the Town has been particularly free from any of the so-called Zymotic diseases, there being only 1 death from Diphtheria, 2 from Enteric or Typhoid Fever, 8 from Diarrhœa, and 8 from Whooping Cough.

One of the deaths from Typhoid was admittedly a doubtful case, and occurred to a person aged 78 years, the other was imported into the District. In respect to this disease the town has been particularly free.

The case of Diphtheria occurred in the eastern part of the District, and was imported from London.

The case of Scarlet Fever occurred in stables, and in my opinion if this case had been removed to the Hospital the death would have been avoided.

The Notification Act has been in operation during the last two years, and was of great assistance in preventing the spread of disease, and facilitated the early removal of patients to Hangleton Hospital.

There has been only one death from any of the infectious fevers in Hangleton Hospital during the past year.

It is with some regret that I have to report that the Steyning Rural Sanitary Authority and Shoreham Urban Authority have discontinued their Agreement as to the removal of their patients to Hangleton Hospital, and I am still of opinion that if the Agreement could possibly be renewed it would help to prevent the spread of any serious epidemic from the adjoining parishes into the West District of the Town.

Hospital tents have been purchased, and will be found useful in providing accommodation at short notice for any cases of a serious nature that may occur in Hove, or the immediate Districts.

Every house in the Town has been inspected by the Sanitary Inspectors once at least during the year with a view of ascertaining if any defects existed therein, and I subjoin a detailed account of the number of such inspections, and the result of examinations:—

5,409 houses have been visited.

1,685 complaints received.

1,477 notices issued for the removal of nuisances, &c.
 1,637 works have been executed and causes of
 complaints removed, viz. :—

163 houses foul.
 1,311 drains and water-closets defective.
 91 accumulations.
 30 animals kept so as to be a nuisance.
 35 houses overcrowded.
 7 smoke nuisances.

669 visits have been made to provision shops,
 and in all cases the provisions were found
 to be of good quality.

189 visits to bakehouses, which have been
 cleansed and whitewashed twice during
 the year.

209 visits have been made to cowstalls, dairies,
 and milkshops, and on every occasion "The
 Dairies, Cowshed, and Milkshop Order of
 1885" has been complied with.

54 inspections of registered lodging-houses

Samples of milk, butter, and coffee have periodically
 been taken from the vendors within the Town, and
 submitted to the Public Analyst, and found to be genuine,
 with the exception of one sample of milk, which was
 found to be adulterated, the vendor being fined £1 and
 costs.

The house refuse is removed weekly from every building,
 and I am pleased to say that I have not received any
 complaint which has been caused through any neglect of
 the staff; any difficulty that has arisen has been caused
 though the severity of the weather at the beginning and
 end of the year.

Again it affords me considerable satisfaction to be able to place before you the foregoing satisfactory statement as to the health of your Town during the year, 1893.

I am, Sir and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ERNEST SEXTON MEDCALF

Medical Officer of Health.

